

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

### **RS23708**

This FY 2015 supplemental appropriation to the Department of Fish and Game provides for several unanticipated one-time projects including \$2.3 million for the fee title purchase of the 10,400 acre Rock Creek property in Blaine County, \$3.5 million for erosion control actions in the Clark Fork Delta in Bonner County, and \$1.6 million for other projects in Owyhee County, Shoshone County, Lemhi County and throughout the state. The total supplemental appropriation is \$7,409,000.

FISHERIES PROGRAM projects include \$93,700 from federal Dingell-Johnson moneys and \$31,300 from state license money to purchase property for Campbell's Pond; \$100,000 from federal NOAA Mitchell Act moneys for fish screen maintenance; \$35,200 from US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) moneys for Clearwater Fish Hatchery Improvements; \$6,100 from USFWS and \$3,800 from Idaho Power Company for the fish health program; \$55,000 from Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation moneys for streambank habitat improvements to Sheep Creek in the Southeast region; \$8,600 from Quantitative Consultants for salmon and steelhead habitat improvement effectiveness monitoring; \$721,000 from the Office of Species Conservation for habitat improvements; and \$47,200 from Idaho Power Company for Chinook salmon and steelhead monitoring and evaluation. Fisheries projects total \$1,101,900.

WILDLIFE PROGRAM projects include \$92,200 in operating expenditures and \$2,215,700 in capital outlay from federal Pittman-Robertson moneys to acquire the 10,400 acre Rock Creek property in Blaine County. The acquisition will conserve important wildlife habitat while preserving grazing uses for livestock producers. Total value of the property exceeds \$13.4 million, with \$7.4 million being contributed through the Rinker family and \$3.8 million through a Grassland Reserve Program easement. That leaves \$2.2 million for fee-title acquisition plus operating costs necessary for appraisal, title search, property survey, and closing costs to the department, bringing the estimated costs for this project to \$2,307,900.

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM projects include \$65,000 in operating expenditures from Pittman-Robertson moneys to enhance the statewide hunter recruitment and retention program. Moneys will be used to conduct trapper education, purchase non-firing training rifles, and for program supplies. The intent is to teach hunting skills that will encourage graduates to become life-long hunters and trappers.

WILDLIFE MITIGATION AND HABITAT CONSERVATION PROGRAM projects include \$3,510,000 in federal Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) moneys to be used for erosion control actions and to restore wildlife habitat in the Clark Fork delta of Lake Pend Oreille; \$174,200 from a Department of Environmental Quality settlement to provide for mitigation for loss of wetlands associated with the expansion of the Page repository in northern Idaho; and \$250,000 in federal BPA moneys for noxious weed control, habitat plantings, and fence repairs in the southern part of the state. This appropriation contains \$3,934,200 for this program.

### **FISCAL NOTE**

This bill adds to the FY 2015 budget for the Department of Fish and Game: \$31,300 from the dedicated Fish and Game Licenses Fund, \$1,009,800 from the Department of Fish and Game Other Fund, and \$6,367,900 from the Fish and Game Federal Fund for a total addition of \$7,409,000, one-time.



**Contact:**

Ray Houston  
Budget and Policy Analysis  
(208) 334-4741